

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks.

The specification has been amended to include a limitation in the title and correct terms in the body of the specification following the Examiner's advice.

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to include the limitation of the material as supported by the specification at page 9, lines 24-26; page 11, lines 20-24; and page 16, lines 10-12.

Claim 11, which corresponds to the allowable original claim 4, has been added.

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being patentable over Nagahata et al. (US Patent No. 5917531) in view of Ohkubo et al. (US Patent No. 4259564). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Nagahata discloses a thick resistor layer of a thermal printhead but does not disclose or suggest the resistor layer which is a thin film having TaSiO₂ as required by claim 1 (see coln. 5, lines 18-20; and coln. 8, lines 56-58). In addition, Ohkubo discloses the thin-film resistor made of Ta₂N and nickel chromium alloy but does not disclose or suggest the use of TaSiO₂ (see coln. 3, line 66 – coln. 4, line 1). The thin film including TaSiO₂ required by claim 1 of the present invention shows a good responsiveness to heating and a good heat dissipation, and accordingly, such thin film is suitable for high speed printing or high definition printing (see page 16, lines 18-22 of the specification). Accordingly, claim 1 of the present invention is distinguished from Nagahata and Ohkubo or is not suggested by these references.

Claim 6 is distinguished from the references or is not suggested by them at least for the same reason as discussed above.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-3 and 5-10 should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.



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Respectfully submitted,

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